



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,824	07/30/2003	Nareak Douk	P1354	7296
28390	7590	03/23/2006	EXAMINER	
MEDTRONIC VASCULAR, INC.			AHMED, AAMER S	
IP LEGAL DEPARTMENT			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3576 UNOCAL PLACE				3763
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403			DATE MAILED: 03/23/2006	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/629,824	DOUK, NAREAK	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Aamer S. Ahmed	3763	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-6 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-6 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 3, and 7-14 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 12/16/2005. The traversal is on the grounds that the species are variations of the same embodiment of the invention. This is not found persuasive because there is still a burden of search on the examiner because the species contain different elements. The election of species restriction still stands and will be applied to any amendments or new claims added to the case.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, and 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Berthiaume U.S. Patent Number 5,846,259. Berthiaume discloses an aspiration catheter (10) comprising a long, continuous aspiration shaft (20) having a fixed length and an aspiration lumen extending between a distal aspiration port (32) disposed at a distal tip of the aspiration shaft and a proximal aspiration port (24) disposed at a proximal end of the aspiration shaft, the aspiration port adapted to be joined to a source of negative pressure a proximal tube (70) having a first

lumen extending therethrough, wherein the proximal tube (70) is slidably disposed over the aspiration shaft (20) and a distal tube (60) having a second lumen extending therethrough, wherein the distal tube (60) is slidably disposed over the aspiration shaft (20) distal to the proximal tube, the distal tube is slidably positionable within the first lumen, at least a proximal end of the distal tube is irremovably disposed within the first lumen, and the aspiration shaft is irremovable from the second lumen (col. 5 line 27); and further comprising a guidewire shaft (30) having a guidewire lumen (see figure 1) disposed adjacent to the aspiration shaft (20) (see figure 1); and disposed along a distal segment of the aspiration shaft (20) (see figure 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berthiaume in view of Ellis et al U.S. Patent Number 5,514,093. Berthiaume discloses the catheter as described

above in reference to claim 1 including stop members a first proximal stop fixedly attached to an interior surface of the proximal tube on a proximal end thereof (54) and a second proximal stop fixedly attached to an exterior surface of the distal tube on a proximal end thereof (52), and a second distal stop (56) fixedly attached to an interior surface of the distal tube on a distal end, however Berthiaume fails to explicitly disclose that the catheter device further comprises; a third proximal stop fixedly attached to an interior surface of the distal tube on a proximal end thereof; and a fourth proximal stop fixedly attached to an exterior surface of the aspiration shaft in a distal region thereof. Ellis et al discloses a similar device with a first distal stop (20) fixedly attached to the interior surface of the proximal tube on a distal end, a third proximal stop fixedly attached to an interior surface of the distal tube on a proximal end thereof (90); and a fourth proximal stop (48) fixedly attached to an exterior surface of the aspiration shaft in a distal region thereof. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by applicant to modify the catheter device of Berthiaume by incorporating more stops as taught by Ellis et al in order to limit movement of the telescopic tubes.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/16/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive as the amended claims are still disclosed in the prior art as cited above.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 3763

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aamer S. Ahmed whose telephone number is 571-272-5965. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nicholas Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



A. Ahmed

Application/Control Number: 10/629,824
Art Unit: 3763

Page 6

Abel
ABEL, ROBERT J.
CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES
INVENTOR
3/10/00